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# LAW STUDENTS FIGHT S.R.C. &



1957/3

7th May 1957

NEWSPAPER OF THE CANBERRA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

## MASTERMAN IN - MURRAY BARRED

This is more news than editorial, which is why we give ourselves front-page rating. This issue, you will find, is rotten with Law Society—for you must all be warned that Law is barring no holds in an effort to grab a large slice of student funds.

Lawyer Lance Murray was a late nomination for S.R.C. Presidency—ruled out of the contest he and another late runner for S.R.C. membership threaten to find a legal quibble to force their acceptance.

When at the last minute no Presidential candidate offered, WORONI was urged into nomination; finding then that Chris Masterman had done the same and threatened with an election which, run on full-timer vs. part-timer lines as it would probably have been could have split S.R.C. and Association down the middle, we withdrew. Not perhaps for those reasons, however—we doubted whether we could have given the job here 100% attention and still kept our job elsewhere.

Sic transit... but we are still in charge of your newspaper, even if contributing little of this week's issue. We can therefore give Chris some support, and in addition tell the Law Society (see letter, page 7) where they get off. When we head an item "Blank Society Notes", we mean notes about the Blank Society: if the lawyers care to read the rest of last WORONI they will also find S.R.C. and CUDA notes. If clubs supply copy we print it; if not, we as every good newspaper should, set our reporters to find out what they can. In this case they may have found out more than the Law Society wanted—but not more than students have a right to know.

It is not usual for reporters to be identified; further, although we are aware that many newsheets refuse to publish unsigned submissions, WORONI is prepared, within the limits of the law, to publish all copy received. The last point does not affect the propriety of including the offending notes, which were commissioned as a report, but does indicate that if the Law Society has any substantial (or insubstantial) corrections to or defence against the notes, they will be published if we receive them.

We do not believe that there was any serious inaccuracy in the notes; if the Law Society can find any we shall be pleased to hear from them. Nor do we consider that the opinions expressed by the writer were unreasonably included: when a newspaper can only report without interpreting it becomes a gazette.

*John F. Carroll*



## FREEDOM OF THE PRESS?

"WORONI" sent a reporter to the case of Freeman v. the Blackhurst Society, last Friday to give an account of a matter affecting all law students. However the freedom of the press was not respected and our reporter was refused admittance in his official capacity. As a member of the public he was unable to take notes and a report of the case had to be obtained from faculty sources. Here are some of his impressions of the evening:

"I arrived at the Berracan Supreme Court at 8.00 p.m. and was admitted on the removal of my press badge and the confiscation of my notebook. The court was packed with barristers, solicitors, clerks and assistant clerks and a mixed bag of minor judges. Mr. Chief Justice O'Donovan entered amid a sudden hush, a regal figure in dark blue suit and light gold hair."

Here is a summary of the case:

The plaintiff, Freeman, asked the Court for a declaration that the C.U.L.S. could not make membership compulsory on all law students, and based his case on the following argument: (1) corresponding bodies to the C.U.L.S. find it necessary to base a provision for compulsory membership on a statute and this the C.U.L.S. does not have.

(2) the Blackhurst Society is attempting to violate the right to freedom of association.

The Plaintiff asked for an injunction preventing the Society from forcing him to join and for damages for the "mental stress" he had suffered.

The defendants argued that the clause in point merely enabled all law students to join the Society and that no-one had attempted to enforce membership. It was also argued that the granting of an injunction would prevent any approach by the Society to obtain a supporting statute and was therefore unconscionable. The claim for damages was resisted on the ground that the defendant Society being unincorporated could not own property to pay the damages.

The Bench was divided but in the result judgment was given for the plaintiff. Connolly and Martisius, JJ held that it was ultra vires (i.e. outside the powers of) the Blackhurst Society to make membership of the Society compulsory on law students (the Chief Justice dissenting on the ground that the Court had no jurisdiction). The claim for an injunction and damages was refused by all three justices.

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A plague on imitation! Why  
Should a buttery (sweet name) be dry?  
Why shouldn't we with throats devout  
Sip cider, and Tooth's bottled Stout  
And after ping-pong's strain, regale  
Our palates with the kindly ale?  
Nay, if they would that we should dine  
Of sauerkraut and sour wine  
A name more fitting we should try.  
So let us now devour our pie  
And costly coffee in the "Kai".



# THE CREAM<sup>3</sup> SCREAMS

Acting from the purest motives (naturally) the Law Society, which though impeccably conducted is financially ailing, requested a small subsidy of £100 to restore its finances and enable it to continue its essential services to this important university. In addition, as the law students get very little value out of the S.R.C. apart from an occasional game of ping-pong and a rare free beer at a General Meeting, it asked that the heavy fees extracted from its members annually be returned to it, which is an eminently reasonable request.

The Law Society wishes to state that it has been hurt and bewildered by the violent and irrational response of the non-law students, whom it had always understood to be democratic and sympathetic to a society which had made constant sacrifices to their welfare. It wishes to add that despite natural feelings of shock and resentment it will continue to act with humble resignation in the best interests of its fellow students and strive to the utmost to co-operate with the Students' Representative Council.

## SACRIFICE

More than any other organisation in the College, the Law Society has worked to unify and beautify this centre of learning, and to lead the students into the paths of studious and non-violent behaviour. It has sought to introduce logic and the spirit of sweet reason into student affairs. It has sought to induce in fellow students a sense of sacrifice and a willingness to advance the interests of others, whatever the price (£100). It has sought, in short, to follow the path of true virtue, and to develop character, democracy and toleration in all students.

Nowhere in the world can be found another example of the democracy practised by the Law Society. To ensure that the direction of public affairs is left in the most public-spirited and unbiassed hands, membership is restricted to law students, thus ensuring that the most responsible and intelligent elements

in the College control the Society. Our interest in public affairs is shown by the fact that every member intends to attend the Annual General Meeting and ensure the passage of motions that will advance the welfare of the whole College.

## CLOTS

We regret to admit that these high ideals are not shared by a few clots in the cream, who apparently do not realise the lofty moral obligation of all law students to co-operate for their mutual advancement. It is hoped that a forth-coming legal action will convert these perverts, and all non-law students are cordially invited not to attend.

## £10!

Finally, we wish to place on record our firm conviction that the pitiful offer of the S.R.C. to give us £10 if we can raise £5 is adding insult to injury as it is obvious that we can't. Despite all this, however, the Society will continue to serve the cause of piety, patriotism and service to the community as a whole.

LAW FACULTY ELEGNS

VOTE

WORTH

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THOMSON

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AUTHORIZED BY HON. SEC.

C. UNIV. LAW SOCIETY -

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S.R.C. NOTES

Propaganda: At a recent S.R.C. Meeting it was decided to sponsor a series of lunch-time meetings in Second Term. The meetings will be held on Friday of every other week.

The meetings will be held throughout Second Term and suggested programmes include - a speaker on a controversial topic with open discussion afterwards; recorded music (classical, light and calypso); a straight debate. WORONI will be happy to pass your suggestions (or demands) for programmes on to the S.R.C.

The Film Club, which has been more or less defunct will also be revived - on the first Tuesday of Second Term: at 8.00 in the College Hall. WORONI does not as yet know what the programme will be.

While we are on the subject of advance announcements - don't forget the End of Term Dance for 17th May. Let's end First Term 1957 with two LOUD bangs: the Annual General Meeting on the 16th and the End of Term Dance on the 17th May.

Lecture Times: The Staff Association of the College, who are as eager as the Students' Association for the improvement of conditions and the stimulation of student activity, have suggested that it may be possible to have lectures over the tea-hour from 6.00 to 7.00 or 6.30 to 7.30. This strikes the S.R.C. as a very good suggestion - what do you think about it?

It would of course mean that the hostel people would miss their evening meal and although the Kai can fill the need, the extra cost would not be popular among hostelites. However if there is sufficient interest it seems likely that the College would be prepared to subsidise the meals of hostelites.

Anyway, if you think the idea stinks or that it is one in a million, don't keep it to yourself, tell everybody else through WORONI. Let us know your views and we'll see what can be done about it.

Common Room: How do you like the decorations in the Common Room? The full-timers who put them up think they're grand and so does WORONI (today's issue of it any way).

Gowns: If anyone knows of anyone wanting to sell a Melbourne-design gown and/or hood would they please contact Joan Thomson at J1818. The S.R.C. wants to increase its present stock of gowns and second-hand ones would be a help.

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It is proposed to revive Cuda - the Darts Association - and Cutta - the Table Tennis Association. These two bodies have been as defunct as Filmsoc but it is felt that they should be operative again. Cutta has a Constitution, which is available in roneed form from Joan Thomson. Those energetic types who have succeeded in wrecking most of the ping-pong equipment are advised to get one from her, as the S.R.C. refuses to continue subsidising this destructive play.



# OH, 5 LAW!

It is well known that to be a successful lawyer one needs the voracity of a Piranha, the subtlety of a Crocodile and the hide of a Rhinoceros. The Australian Law Council must surely be rejoicing at the quality of the federal product, whose calibre has long ago earned it the glorious title of "cream of the university". The latest exploit of these 40 Dracons must have had a mixed effect on their members. For sheer hide it is a tanner's night-mare, but its lack of finesse and plausibility is shown by the fact that for once the skim milk is protesting and has actually refused the iniquitous £100 demand point-blank.

There is a story told about one member of the Law Society which is illustrative of its collective mentality. This embryo lawyer was on a ship which was wrecked near shore in a sea teeming with sharks. He volunteered to take a line ashore and to everyone's utter amazement, he got there. "What a miracle!" exclaimed a clergyman to a doctor. "Why didn't those sharks attack him?"

"Oh," replied the doctor, "Imagine it was just professional courtesy."

Less than a tenth of the students are demanding over a quarter of our funds down, plus £50 per annum ad infinitum. They want all S.R.C. dues returned to them, but needless to say, will continue to monopolise the ping-pong table and drink out the S.R.C. funds. It is common nowadays to ask for four times what you could possibly get if the judge was drunk, but the drunkest judge would be sobered by this rapacity.

## BEER

For what is the £100 desired? That is difficult to see. Even knowing the spending capacity of the College cream, £100 is not a peccadillo. Admittedly, some luxuriant new furnishings from Cusack's, some stationery from Kennards and some beer from anywhere, not to mention an annual dinner deluxe could make a sizeable hole in the dole. But the

lawyers have yet to suggest any legitimate uses for their handout. No doubt several reasons for this singular omission could be advanced, the most pertinent being that there aren't any.

## D.L.P.?

Our revered principal is fighting tooth and nail to forge a Federal University out of forty full-timers and some evening students. Yet these incredible legalities are already attempting to form factions a la Democratic Labour Party almost before any factionable material is available. In effect, the Law Society is announcing its complete dissociation from the S.R.C. and demanding this exorbitant subsidy to do so. They also intend to enforce this extortion by democratically "stacking" the General Meeting, apparently believing that the skim milk is too thin to show up. If this was so, why did they curdle it by making their attempted extortion known beforehand? Professor C. of the U. Fleming may be proud of his proteges, but even he must be forced to admit that on this occasion the cream has gone pretty sour.

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This issue you owe mainly to Chris Masterman, Joan Thomson, and Chris Jay. Joan Thomas also helped, and John Carroll, who thanks the Joans and Chrisses, was nominal Editor and will handle the ensuing court cases.

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NOTICES

CANBERRA UNIVERSITY DRAMATIC  
SOCIETY

The General Meeting of C.U.D.S. was held on Friday 26th April. A report of the past year's activity was presented by the President and a Bank Balance of about £23 was shown.

The new Executive was then elected:

- President - Bruce Hope
- Vice-President - Dace Brasla
- Secretary - Anne Biveinis
- Treasurer - Chris Masterman.

It will be noticed that all these people are full-time students - an all-time record for any society at the College.

After some discussion about plays to be undertaken and space for storage of props and sets, the meeting was closed.

1=2 1=2 2=3 2=3 3=4 URRONG.

EARLY REFLECTIONS ON PSYCH : STUDENTS'  
PRACTICAL NOTES.

Melbourne, oh Melbourne, oh what shall I do?  
To the questions you ask me I haven't a clue.  
From issue to issue they're so much the same  
I'm beginning to think that it's only a game,  
Or perhaps an example of some strange delusion  
On how to untangle a fresher's confusion.  
A rapid survey of student deduction  
Shows them conducive to mental obstruction,  
And the best way to deal with such objects of ire  
Is to happily use them for lighting the fire.

Joan Thomas.

ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION!

DO YOU WANT TO HAVE YOUR SPINE RAISED ?  
BLOOD CHILLED ??  
HAIR CURDLED ???

THEN ROLL UP TO THE

UNIVERSITY DRAMATIC SOCIETY PLAY READING :

Friday, 10th May at 8.30 p.m. in the Common Room.

"TEN MINUTE ALIBI"

by ANTHONY ARMSTRONG

EVERYBODY WELCOME.

and there's SUPPER!



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I wish to protest strongly against the publishing in WORONI of 26th April, 1957 of the seeming "official notes" of the Canberra University Law Society. I am in a position to know that these notes were not an official account of Canberra University Law Society proceedings, and these notes were not, to my knowledge, written by any law student.

These notes contained no signature, which implies that either they were submitted with no signature, or that that signature was deleted by WORONI staff, or that a member of WORONI staff wrote these notes. I would not anticipate that any news sheet would publish unsigned statements. If the policy of WORONI is not to publish unsigned statements, I call on WORONI to identify their correspondent.

It may be noted that the Canberra University Law Society Notes contain incorrect statements of fact. Also, the main space in these notes is taken up by expressions of opinion of the writer, and supposed views of the S.R.C.

Consequently, I feel explanations as to the circumstances behind the writing and publishing of these notes is called for.

Brian E. Worth,  
Secretary C.U.L.S.

Sir,

Perhaps some of your readers did not see my previous letter about the Law Society (WORONI 2 of 1957). With your kind co-operation, Sir, I should like again to sound the note of warning I gave in that issue. The infamous activities of this faction have not ceased: nay they have rather increased despite the fearless exposure of their designs in your paper. We, the non-Law students, must not stand back and allow this usurpation of our rights, this squandering of our money and this wilful refusal of membership to those who have the interests of the University truly at heart.

We, Sir, the Arts and Commerce students, I repeat, must not stand back in our traditional apathy and allow this wanton interference with our liberties and our cash. Is there no Corday to rid us of this giant Robespierre? no Wilkes to stand up and oppose this monstrous infringement of our rights? Where is the spirit of the College student today?

Sir, Arts and Commerce Societies must be founded without delay. The enemy must be fought on his own ground and with his own weapons:- he must not be allowed to shield his villainy behind purported memoranda, compulsory membership and annual subsidies.



Finally, I again urge all reasonably-minded students to attend the General Meeting of May 16 and vote their ridiculous motions out.

In deepest sorrow, Sir,  
I remain,  
Slurple.

whowhowho44444444

Dear Sir,

I wish to protest most strongly against the content of the last issue of WORONI (No. 2 of 1957). As one of your articles itself pointed out Law students are in the ratio of 40 to 450 to the rest of the students at the College. As such, I cannot think they warrant what amounts to an issue of WORONI to advertise their presence.

Law students are perhaps necessary, but they are not the salt of the earth (nor the cream of the university) and they do not have sufficient interest for the rest of the College to justify so much prominence being given to their petty troubles.

The aim of bringing the Law Society to the notice of the College has now been adequately achieved and I suggest WORONI return to issues of general interest

Yours, etc,

ARTS 11.



DONT FORGET

END  
OF  
TERM

DANCE

FRIDAY

7<sup>TH</sup>

MAY

8.30

HALL

DOUBLE

8/-

SINGLE

5/-

SUPPER

THREE-PIECE BAND